

# Editorial

## Resolutions won't improve state's higher education

Three ill-conceived proposals to alter the governing bodies of state universities and colleges wait in the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee of the Nebraska Legislature. None of the resolutions would guarantee any improvement in education — all three should be rejected.

If passed, the resolutions would become constitutional amendments on the November 1986 ballot. LR32 would change the NU Board of Regents to a body appointed by the governor. LR36 would put state colleges under the regents' control. The board would initially consist of 13 members, five appointed by the governor. In 1993, the board would shrink to nine members with five appointed by the governor. LR38 would create a "super board" (a greater misnomer could not have been thought of) to govern NU, the state colleges and technical schools. The specifics have not been made for LR38.

LR32 is the most ridiculous of the resolutions. Proponents, including Gov. Bob Kerrey, say the regents, as elected officials, face political pressure that makes it difficult to make "tough" decisions concerning education. Among those decisions is making the budget request. One imagines the governor is interested in a board more willing to swallow "tough" decisions, like his budget which includes only a 4 percent increase. If our regents were appointed by Governor Kerrey, they probably wouldn't be nearly as hostile or vocal about such a constricting proposal. The NU Board of Regents requested a 12 percent increase for 1986.

At Saturday's Regents' meeting, Regent Robert Koeft of Grand Island said, "I don't think the people of the state of Nebraska are stupid enough" to accept such a resolution. We hope they aren't. The regents should be champions of the needs of the university and representatives of what the people in this state want in higher education. That is less likely under LR32.

LR36 received 4-3 vote approval by the regents Saturday. As a body, they'd like to have control over the state's other colleges — Wayne State, Peru State, Kearney State and Chadron State.

Those who support LR36 say the resolution would eliminate the State College Board of Trustees. Regent Don Fricke has said putting the colleges under one board would help eliminate duplication in programs, and save money.

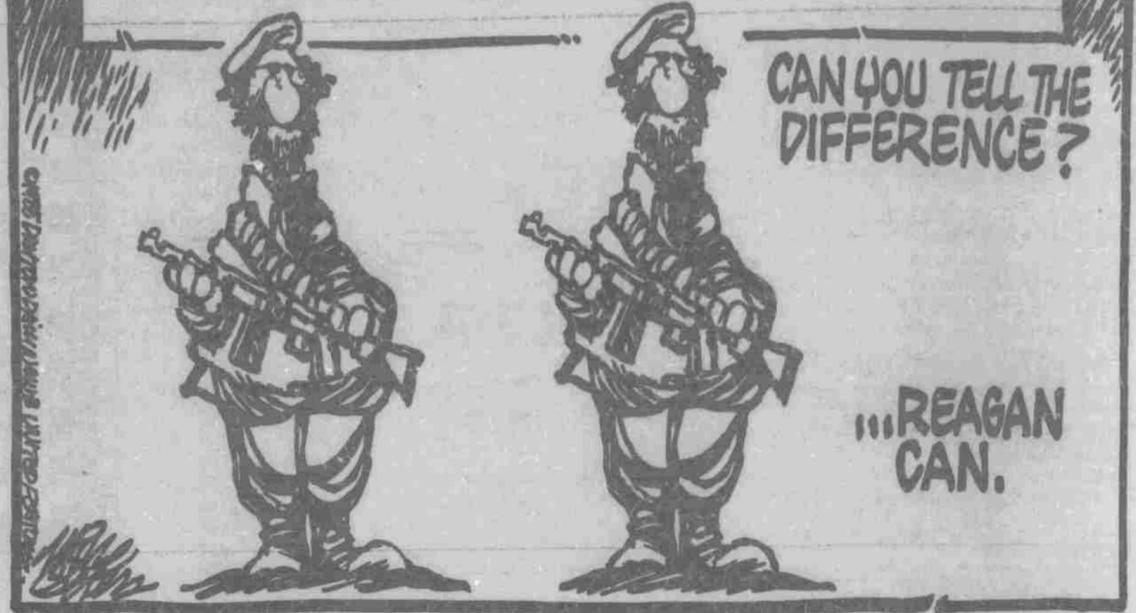
Such a move would overload the regents and reduce already insufficient student input. Currently the regents and the college board have a total of seven non-voting student members. Under this plan there would be only three student representatives for the entire state. The smaller colleges would be under-represented. And the most important people involved, the state's consumers, would have even less say in how they are educated.

Perhaps the bill would eliminate some bureaucracy, but we think it would just overtax regents who have their hands full with NU's three campuses.

The third resolution, LR38 is too vague to be considered, but we imagine such a "super board" would have the same drawbacks as the two other proposals. It would reduce student input, overtax the governing board, and give the governor unnecessary leverage.

The state is in trouble economically. All agencies face shrinking sections of the state's tax revenue. The regents must be advocates of quality in higher education and must fight those who would cut funding to NU. In the long run, the benefits of accessible, quality higher education far outweigh the temporary budget relief that cuts offer.

ONE OF THESE IS A KIND, LOVING, DEMOCRATIC, FREEDOM FIGHTER FROM NICARAGUA... THE OTHER IS AN EVIL, BLOODTHIRSTY, MURDERING, TERRORIST FROM ELSALVADOR...



Prostitution next?

## Sports betting bill too risky

So here I am, sittin' in a bar talking to this beautiful woman next to me whose name I don't even know.

"Have you heard the latest? Some senator wants to legalize sports betting in this state. Can you believe that? He says he wants to remove the stigma of being called a criminal from those upstanding citizens of our community who play the betting game. Sure, he points out that betting at the track is legal and no one's been hurt. Instead of the crooks, the state's rakin' in big bucks."

and voila, no more criminals. It's a great way to reduce the crime rate in the state, but the boys down at the station, they're not fooled. They know just where this is goin' to lead."

or two-for-one sales), as well as taxing the inheritance after the contract is fulfilled. I bet it won't be long before the government will train its own gunmen. There's more money in that. I can see it now, they'll drive blue and white trucks with an eagle on the side and underneath it will say 'Express gunmen — next day service.'

"Next it'll be prostitution. Oh, there'll be laws all right, everything'll be run legal so the state can get its cut. No more slinkin' down dark alleys or slummy apartments, no way. You just let your fingers do the walkin' and they'll come to your place!" Of course the federal health people will probably insist on some sort of inspection ya know, like the supermarket where the meat is stamped USDA choice. A lot of the boys from Vice are figurin' on pullin' this duty after the squad is shut down. But the thing I can't figure is, where are they going to hang their license?"

"Which reminds me, beautiful lady, I have to call a friend of mine in Las Vegas. He runs the syndicate out there and since we're both going to be out of work pretty soon, we thought we might go to Australia and join the Church. But before I do, I was wondering if you and I could find some place private. You know, after they legalize this sort of thing it won't be as much fun, so what do you say?"

She hadn't said a word the whole evening and I wasn't too surprised when she reached into her purse and brought out her badge. "You're under arrest," was all she said as she cuffed me.

Yup, that senator has really got it figured. If you want fewer criminals simply get rid of the laws making them criminals. Hey, what's the big deal anyway? If "everyone's" doing it, then it must be right. Boy, I gotta talk to this guy about speeding tickets. He thinks a lot of people are betting, wait till he finds out how many speed! Oh, shoot, the state won't make any money if they get rid of speed limits. Maybe instead we should lower the limit to 36 on the interstate, then we'd be rollin' in dough! Damn, I forgot that I'm under arrest. I gotta get this senator to make prostitution legal before my case comes up.

## Van Kloempken

"You know what he calls a bookie? A sports entrepreneur. Ain't that a good one? Oh, this guy's figured all the angles, all right. He says people are doin' it anyway so the state might as well get its cut. For a small fee of \$500 any self-respecting individual who owns a couple of ugly suits and evil smelling cigars can get himself a genuine state approved license that he can put up on his wall proving that he is an entrepreneur. It's just fantastic. Think of all the money that'll be saved that's been spent to try and bust these guys now. And it'll all be nicely regulated too. If a bookie tries to stiff ya, all you have to do is go to the cops and they'll revoke his license."

This state's finest have gotta be scared to death. What if this guy succeeds? His logic says that if everybody's doin' it, it ain't a crime no more, so we make it legal

"Extortion will be next, of course. The government will charge a percentage of the take and probably allow the rest to be put in an Individual Retirement Account, just to encourage business. Then they'll set up state-run schools to teach the best way to snare a victim, after all, if the government's involved you know it has to be first class all the way. No more mailbox payoffs either. There'll be federal collection centers in every major town and city where the well-to-do extortionist can go to collect his money and pay the government at the same time. Everything will be so much easier then."

"Murder will probably be the last to go, but in the end I think the government will knuckle under. Besides, this is where the real bucks can be made. They can charge a percentage for each contract put out on someone (not including volume discounts

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## Pressure by peers just for the birds

There is a mind-set — you can easily remember it — that is most to the fore in junior high, a set of mind that enforces conformity, that equates the familiar accustomization with correctness, and is automatically brutal to anyone exhibiting a variation. Beauty and intrinsic worth outside the quasi-tribal set are incon-

ceivable, and are simply not recognized. I think, for instance, of my daughter of rosy cheeks and waist-length tresses, suffering the abysses of junior high "peer pressure," that is, group rudeness and abuse, because she has long, not short, hair, and wears no make-up.

"I wear make-up, we wear make-up, therefore, you must wear make-up." The difference is apparently perceived as a threat, and thus even a trivial difference

will, in junior high, lead to physical abuse. To say that animals behave this way is no exaggeration. Nothing but actual observing led to the central European proverb "The white crow is pecked to death." Ornithological experiments show, for instance, that red-winged blackbirds whose wing-marks have been blacked over get the same treatment as the proverbial white crow.

Continued on Page 5

## Letters